

265
ARTICLES^D

OF

ENQUIRY

Concerning Matters

ECCLESIASTICAL;

Exhibited in

VISITATION;

To the Ministers, Church-wardens, and Side-men
of every Parish within the Arch-Deaconry of

Exon



L O N D O N,

Printed in the Year, 1684.

The Form of the Church-Wardens Oath.

YOU shall Swear truly and faithfully to execute the Office of Church-Warden within your Parish; and according to the best of your skill and knowledge, present such things and persons, as to your knowledge are presentable by the Laws Ecclesiastical of this Realm. So help you God, and the Contents of this Book.

The Side-mens Oath.

YOU shall Swear that you will be assistant to your Church-Wardens, in the Execution of their Office, so far as by Law you are bound. So help you God.

An Advertisement to the Wardens.

THese Articles following are given you only for your Direction, to shew you what are the principal Offences against His Majesties Ecclesiastical Laws, that you are diligently to make Enquiry after, and accordingly, faithfully to present every person offending in any of these particulars, as by your Office you are obliged.

Articles of ENQUIRY within the Arch- Deaconry of *Essex*

Titul. 1.

Concerning Churches and Chappels, with the Ornaments and Furniture thereunto belonging.

IS your Parish Church or Chappel kept in good and sufficient repair: are the Roofs thereof well covered with Lead, Tile, or Slate: the Windows well glazed, the Floors well paved, the Seats well fastned and conveniently placed, and all things so decently ordered as becometh the House of God? Can. 83.

2. Hath the Steeple or Tower of your Church or Chappel, or any part thereof, been pulled down, or any of the Lead or Bells formerly belonging thereunto, been imbezelled, sold, or made away: in whose hands or custody doth the same, or any part thereof remain: Declare what you know, or have heard therein.

3. Is there a Font of Stone, with a good Cover thereunto, standing in a convenient place towards the lower part of your Church, for the Administration of Baptism: and is there in your Chancel a decent Communion-Table for the Administration of the Lords Supper, with a Carpet of Silk, Stuff, or fine Wollen Cloth, and another Covering of white and pure Linnen to spread thereupon: And have you a fair Communion-Cup, or Chalice, with a Cover of Silver, and one or more Flaggons of Silver or Pewter thereunto belonging? Injunct. El.
Can. 81.
Can. 82.
Rub. Com.
Can. 20.

4. Have you in your said Church or Chappel, a convenient Seat or Pew for your Minister to read Divine Service in, a Pulpit with a comely Cloth or Cushion for the same: a Bible of the last Translation in a large Volume, and two Books of Common-prayer, established by Act of Parliament, 1662. both well and substantially bound: Have you likewise the Book of Homilies, set forth by Authority: A Book of Canons and Constitutions Ecclesiastical, and Printed Table of the Degrees wherein Marriage is prohibited? Can. 82.
Can. 83.
Can. 30.

5. Have you a comely large Surplice for the Minister to wear at all times of his publick Ministration in the Church, provided, and to be duly washed at the charge of the Parish? Can. 58.

6. Have you a Register-Book of Parchment wherein to Register the Names and Surnames of all such persons as are Married, Christened, or Buried within your Parish, together with the Names and Surnames Can. 70.

of both the Parents of the Children so Christened, expressing the day, month and year of all such Christnings, Marriages, and Burials: And is the Transcript thereof yearly, within one month after the 25. of March brought into the Bishops Registry?

7. Have you like wise another Book of Paper, wherein to record the Names and Licenses of all such Strangers, as are admitted at any time to preach in your Church or Chappel: as also a third Book, wherein to write down the Church-wardens accompes; together with a strong Chest, with Locks and Keys, wherein to keep the aforesaid Books, and all other the aforementioned Furniture in safe custody: and lastly, Have you a Bire, with a black Hearse-cloth, for the Burial of the Dead?

Titul. 2.

Concerning the Church-Yard, the Houses, Glebes, and Tythes belonging to the Church.

1. Is your Church-yard sufficiently fenced, and decently kept? Hath any person encroched upon the same, or made any way into it, out of his own ground or habitation, without allowance from the Ordinary? Have any Trees there growing been cut down? how long since? by whom? and to whose use and benefit?

2. Have you a true and perfect Terrier of all the Glebe-lands, Cares, dens, Richards, Tenements, or Cottages belonging to your Parsonage, or Vicarage; as also a Note of such Pensions, Rents, tythes, and portions of Tythes, or other yearly profits (either within or without your Parish) as do belong thereunto: have any of the same been withheld from your Minister? or by whom, as you know, or have heard?

Titul. 3.

Concerning Ministers.

1. Doth your Parson, Vicar and Curate, in reading the Morning and Evening Service, Administration of the Holy Sacraments, Celebration of Marriage, Churching of Women after Child-birth, Visitation of the Sick, Burial of the Dead, & pronouncing Gods Communion against impenitent sinners, use the Forms and words prescribed in the Book of Common-prayer, without any addition, omission, or alteration of the same: and doth he use all such Rites and Ceremonies in all parts of Divine Service, as are appointed in the same Book, so far as you have observed?

2. Doth your Minister at the reading or celebrating any Divine Office in your Church or Chappel, wear the Surplice?

3. Doth he observe the Holidays, and Fasting-days, as also the Ember-weeks, and the yearly Perambulation in Rogation-weeks, as in the Common-prayer-Book, or by the Ecclesiastical Canons is appointed; giving notice to the Parishioners of every of the same in the Church in the time of Divine Service upon the Sunday next before: and doth he

he constantly read the Prayers of the Church on Wednesdays and Fridays weekly :

Injunct. Eliz. 15.

4. Hath your Minister been Licensed to preach by the Bishop : if so, doth he then constantly, unless in case of sickness, necessary absence, or other impediment, himself preach in your Church or Chappel one Sermon every Sunday ; or if he be not a Licensed Preacher, or being so Licensed, be hindered by sickness, or otherwise as aforesaid, doth he procure a Sermon to be so preached by some other Minister, a licensed Preacher ; or one of the Homilies set forth by Authority, to be there read by a Priest or Deacon lawfully ordained :

Can. 42.

Can. 43.

Rub. Com.

Can. 45.

Can. 46.

5. Doth your Minister diligently instruct the youth of your Parish in the Church, Catechism : and doth he prepare and present them, being so instructed, to be Confirmed by the Bishop : and doth he endeavour to reclaim all Popish Recusants, and other Sectaries, (if any such be inhabiting within your Parish) to the true Religion established in the Church of England, and to their bounden Duty in obeying the Laws, and submitting to the Government thereof :

Can. 50. 61.

Can. 66.

Injunct.

Eliz. 44.

6. Doth he refuse or neglect to visit the Sick, or delay the Baptism of any Infant that is in danger of death : Is there any Child past Infancy, or other person of more years, through your Ministers default, yet remaining unbaptized in your Parish : Doth he baptize any without God-fathers and God-mothers, or admit either of the Parents to be God-father or God-mother to their own Children :

Can. 64. 68.

69.

Rub. Com.

Pra. Can. 29.

7. Hath he at any time (as you know, or have heard) preached any False, Heretical, Seditious, or Schismatical Doctrine, thereby to seduce the people into Parties and Factions, to the disturbance of the publick peace and unity either of Church or State :

12 Eliz. 12.

Injunct.

Eliz. 31.

Can. 72. 73.

8. Hath your Minister taken upon him to appoint any publick or private Fasts, Prophecying, or Exercises not appointed by Authority : or doth he, or any other, either Minister or Lay-person, hold any Conventicles, or Meetings in private houses within your Parish, for people of several Families to resort unto, under the pretence of Preaching, Praying, Thanksgiving, or Humiliation, contrary to the Laws and Canons in that case provided :

9. Hath he married any person without license, unless the Names have been first published on three Sundays or Weekdays in time of Divine Service in the Churches where the said persons dwell :

Can. 28.

Rub. Com.

10. Hath he married any so licensed at any unlawful time, but only between the hours of Eight and Twelve in the forenoon, or in any other place than the Church or Chappel where one of them dwells, and in time of Divine Service :

11. After the Names have been thrice published, hath he married any under the age of one and twenty years, before the Parents or next of kin have personally, or by sufficient testimony signified their consent to the said Marriage :

Can. 28.

Titul. 4.

Concerning Parishioners.

Can. 110.

1. Is there any person in your Parish that refuses to come unto the publick Assemblies, Prayers, or Services of the Church, or that make profession of any other Religion than what is established in the Church of England? and if there be any such, what are their Names?

Can. 109.

2. Is there any person in your Parish that lyeth under a Common fame, or vehement suspicion of Adultery, Fornication, or Incest? Are there any common Drunkards within your Parish, or common Swearers, or Blasphemers of Gods Name, or any that are noted to be Railers, unclean and filthy Talkers, or Sowers of Sedition, Faction, and Discord amongst their Neighbours?

Injunct.
Eliz. 34.

3. Do any of your Parish upon the Sundays follow their bodily and ordinary labours, or permit their Servants so to do? Are any Shops kept open, or Wares sold? or do any Alehouses, Innkeepers, or other Victuallers, and Sellers of Beer or Ale, suffer any persons to tipple or game in their houses upon those days?

Injunct.
Eliz. 33.
1 Eliz. 2.
Injunct.
Eliz. 46.
Injunct.
Eliz. 52.
Rub. Bapt.

4. Doth every person inhabiting or sojourning within your Parish duly resort unto your Church, Chappel, or Chappels, upon every Sunday and Holiday appointed for Divine Service? Do they then and there abide quietly with Reverence, order, and decency, during all the whole time of Common-prayer, Preaching, or other Service of God there used? and are there any among you that come only to the Preaching, and not to the Common-prayer of the Church?

Can. 59.

5. Are there any in your Parish that refuse to send their Infant Children to be baptized publicly in the Church, unless in case of urgent danger? or do they send them to be baptized in any other Parishes, or after other Forms than is appointed? or do they keep them unbaptized any longer time than the Church alloweth? and are there any Infants, or more aged persons in your Parish as yet unbaptized?

Can. 114. 21.
Rub. Com.

6. Doth every Householder in your Parish cause their Children and Servants to learn their Catechism, and to give an account thereof unto your Minister, as he shall require it of them openly in the Church upon Sunday and Holy-days as in the Book of Common-prayer is appointed; that when they are well instructed in the same, they may be Confirmed by the Bishop?

Can. 57.

7. Is there any person in your Parish, who being sixteen years of age, doth not receive the Sacrament of the Lords Supper at least three times in the year, of which Easter is always to be one? Doth any in your Parish refuse to receive the same kneeling, or from the hands of your own Minister, repairing for it to other Parishes and Ministers abroad? or are there any Strangers, not of your Parish, that forsake their own Churches, and usually repair to yours for it?

8. Have

(5)

8. Have you any amongst you that be denounced and declared Ex-
communicate for any crime committed? How long have they been so
Excommunicated? Can. 63.

9. Are there any living in your Parish as Man and Wife who are
within the degrees prohibited? or any that being lawfully divorced,
have married again? or any that being lawfully married, and not se-
parated, or divorced by course of Law, do not co-habit together? Can. 59.

10. Are there any married women in your Parish, who after their
delivery from the peril of Child-birth, refuse to make their publick
Thanksgiving to God in the Church? and when they come so to do,
do they come decently apparelled, and make their Offerings according
to custom? Rub.

11. Do any refuse to bury their Dead, according to the Rites of
the Church of England? and are there any Wills and Testaments of
persons dead in your Parish that be yet unproved? or any Goods Ad-
ministrated without a due Grant from the Ordinary? Did any dying in
your Parish, or elsewhere, leave any Legacy to your Church or Chappel:
What were those Legacies? and how have they been bestowed? Rub. Com.
Pra.
Can. 52.

Titul. 5.

Concerning Parish-Clerks and Sextons.

1. **H**ave you belonging to your Church or Chappelry, a Parish-Clerk
Aged twenty years at the least? Is he of honest life and conver-
sation, and sufficient or able to perform his Duty in Reading, Writing,
and Singing? Is he chosen by your Minister? And doth he duly at-
tend him in all Divine Services in the Church? Are his wages duly
paid him? or who withholdeth the same from him? Can. 51.

2. Doth he or your Sexton (if there be any such appointed in your
Parish) diligently look to the doors of your Church that they be locked,
and opened at due time? and doth he keep the Church or Chappel clean
from Dust, Cobwebs, and other Annoyances? Doth he Toll or Ring
the Bell at the accustomed hours, before the beginning of Divine Ser-
vice, Morning and Evening, that the people may be warned to come
unto the Church? And when any person is passing out of this Life,
doth he upon notice given him thereof, Toll a Bell, as hath been ac-
customed, that the Neighbours may thereby be warned to recommend
the dying person to the Grace and Favour of God? Can. 57.

*Queries to be put to the Minister.**Titul. 6.*

Concerning the Church-wardens and Side-men.

- Can. 87. 1. **A**re the Church-wardens of your Parish yearly and truly chosen by the joynt consent of your Minister and Parishioners; or one of them by the Minister, and the other by the Parishioners?
- Can. 89. 2. Have the former and last Church-Wardens given up their due Accomps to the parish, and delivered up to the succeeding Church-Wardens, the Moneys remaining in their hands, together with all other things belonging to your Church or Chappel?
- Eliz. 2. 3. Doth the Church-Wardens and Side-men take diligent care, and see who of your parishioners be absent from the Divine Service, and Sermon in your Church or Chappel, upon Sundays & Holy-days?
- Can. 90.
Can. 19. 4. Do they note them that come late to Church after Divine Service is begun, or depart before it be ended? do they suffer none to stand idle, or talk together in the Church-porch, or to walk in the Church, or Church-yard, during the time of Prayers, Preaching, or other Sacred Offices?
- Can. 18. 5. Do they suffer no misbehaviour or disorder to be done by Men, Women, Servants, or children, to your Church or Chappel? Are they careful that none of them sit, lean, or lay their Hats upon the Communion Table? do they permit no dogs or Hawks, to be brought, or come into your Church, to the disturbance of the Congregation?
- Rub.
Can. 20. 6. Do they against every Communion appointed in your Church or Chappel, provide a sufficient quantity of fine white Bread, and of good Wine, according to the number of Communicants?
- Can. 52. 7. Do they cause all strangers that preach in your Church or Chappel, to subscribe their names the same day in a Book provided for that purpose, together with the name of the Bishop that Licensed them to Preach in his Diocess? And do they not permit no other to preach?
- Can. 119. 8. Have they (the Church-Wardens and Side-men) now sworn to give in a true answer unto all these Articles of Enquiry in all their severall Titles, taken sufficient time to draw up their Presentments, and therein consulted with you their Minister for your faithful Assistance?